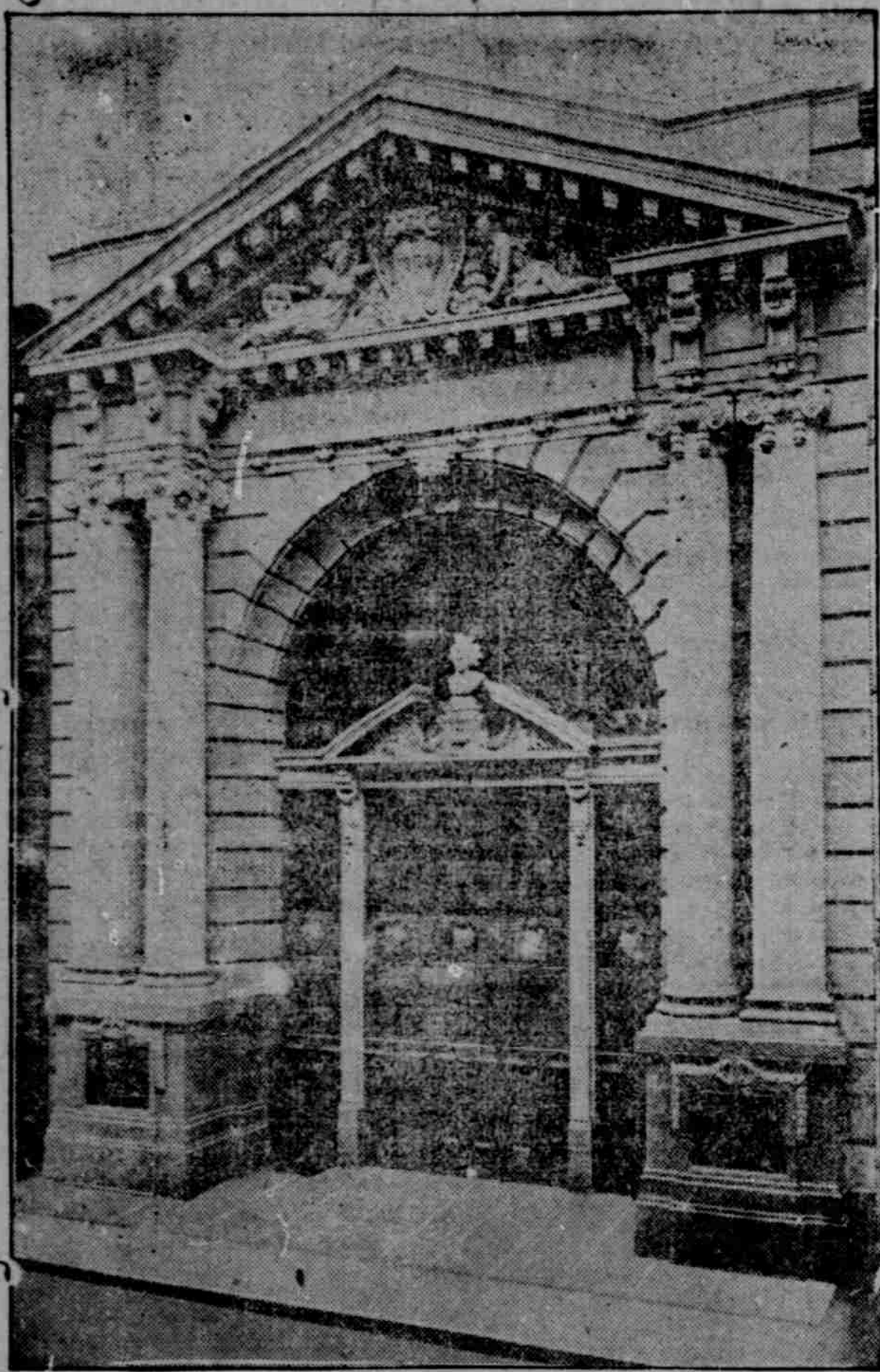


GREATEST HORROR OF A CENTURY

Frightful Disaster in a Theater at Chi- cago.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—The most hor-
rible theatrical tragedy for many years
took place yesterday when from some
cause which at this time is not



THE ILL-FATED IROQUOIS THEATER.

certainly known a fire broke out in
the new Iroquois theater on Randolph
street between Dearborn and State.
At the time the house was crowded to
witness the play "Blue Beard," which
has been running there since the open-
ing. The audience, composed very large-
ly of women and children, immedi-
ately broke into a wild panic and
scenes were witnessed such as make
the blood run cold hardly once in a
century.

Fire Breaks Out in the Flies.

The fire broke out in the flies of the
stage, presumably from a defect in the
electrical display. In an instant the
draperies and flimsy stage settings had
burst into flames. The actors and
actresses ran wildly about the stage,
as the audience fought and jammed its
way to the front doors. In a short
time the interior of the theater was
apparently a mass of flames, and smoke
was issuing in clouds from the front
of the house. A dozen women and a
number of men with faces and hands
fearfully burned were soon taken into
a neighboring drug store, where the
worst injured were hastily attended to.

Women and Children in the Rush.

Women and children were piling out
of the doors, but the flames appar-
ently gained rapidly, and it was a con-
siderable time before a large number
of the people could leave the building.
Meanwhile special calls and a general
alarm had summoned an extraordi-
nary number of fire engines.

FIRST FIFTY TAKEN OUT

Of Them Thirty Were Dead, and Nearly
All Young People.

The chief of the city fire department,
Marshal Musham, who had called a
fire trial board to hear the cases of
six delinquent firemen, left the board
room hastily at the first call and took
personal charge at the fire. In an
hour after the fire broke out fifty
bodies had been carried from the the-
ater into Thompson's restaurant, one
door east. Of these fifty thirty were
dead, a number was showing faint
signs of life, and it was impossible to
tell at first glance whether about one
dozen of them were dead or alive.
There were mostly the bodies of young
women under 20 years of age, and
children from 5 to 12. The bodies were
placed on the floor, on chairs, tables
and one young woman in dripping gar-
ments was stretched along the cigar
case.

All the large dry goods stores of the
city, which are situated with two
squares of the theater—Fields', Man-
dela', Carson, Price, Co. & Co., Schles-
inger & Mayer and the Boston store
—as soon as they heard of the emer-
gency, sent wagon loads after wagon
loads of blankets, linen, and cotton for

bandages. All of their teams were
placed at the disposal of the authori-
ties, and were utilized in conveying
the wounded to hospitals or to the of-
fices of nearby physicians. Within
fifteen minutes after the fire broke out
fully fifty physicians were on the
scene, and trained nurses seemed to
spring from the ground, so rapidly did
they appear.

Bishop Muldoon, with a prayer upon
his lips, with his coat off, worked
among the injured and dying inside of
the theater. He was passing the theater
when the panic started and rushed in
to lend a helping hand. He climbed
into the gallery and there directed the
work of rescue. Firemen and police-
men rushed upon him to get him out,
but he remained among the suffering
while the smoke and flames came
closer to him. At the top of his voice
he begged the people to put their trust
in God and to calm themselves.

Rev. Henry T. Richardson; Louis
Kisner and wife; Walter B. Zeisler,
son of Dr. Zeisler, of the University of
Chicago, who is now in Europe; Lester
Dady; Mrs. A. M. Mendel; Walter D.
Austrian, aged 14; Fred Sawyer; J.
Graham; Will McGary.

Leander Deffendorf, Lincoln, Ill.
Paul Whides.
Mrs. Morion Fox, Winnetka, Ill.
Annie Mook, Walter Packer, James
McClellan, Patline Geary.

Unidentified man with watch en-
graved "E. D. M."
Mrs. C. D. Artlett, Mrs. John Ad-
ameck, and Gertrude Falkenstein—all
of Bartlett, Ill.

Mrs. W. T. Boise, Sydney Fox.
Mrs. William Dawson, of Barrington,
Ill.

William Beurtel, Mary D. Gartz,
Louise Buchwald, Leigh Holland, Her-
man Eisenstadt, unidentified girl, Wil-
liam Ahern; Helen Dewey, 18 years
old; Irene Canning, E. J. Jordan.

Mrs. S. Stockard, address unknown.
Barnes Clayton, 12 years old; Black-
er Glenn, 14 years old; Dora Mitchell,
Mrs. Anna Dixon, Leah Dixon, Edna
Dixon, Ella DuBois, C. G. Mucker,
Mabel Mucker, Zella Mucker, Claire
Mucker, Russell Mucker, Carleton
Mucker, M. R. McKay, Joseph Bezek
and wife, Carrie J. Sayore, Harry Hud-
son.

R. E. Gould, Elgin, Ill.
Mrs. W. A. Spring, Fred W. Leatin,
Beane Boise, C. M. Bickford, Mrs.
J. H. Stigler, Lowell, Ind.

Unidentified woman wearing ring
marked "E. K. Oct. 20, 1874."
C. R. Barnheim and Esther Barker.
Edward L. Van Ingen, Kenosha,
Wis.

Elizabeth Hart and Mattie Martin,
Evanston, Ill.
Mrs. Sarah Kranz, Racine, Wis.
Winthrop Spring, Saville, 14
years old; Herman Velm; Harriet Wolf,
daughter millionaire manufacturer, L.
Wolf; Hulda Holmes.

There are 355 persons injured accord-
ing to estimates, and the missing list
has hundreds of names.

SOME OF THOSE WHO WERE HURT

Women and Children Form the Bulk of
the Injured Victims.

Among the injured are the follow-
ing:
R. A. Evers, actor, who took the
part of Mustapha, badly scorched, ad-
dress unknown.

James S. Strong, badly burned; Ar-
thur Jones, severely burned; R. C.
Jambeson, burned; "Doty" Marion,
member of the "pony ballet," severely
burned; James Gallagher, unconscious;
Mrs. Bradwell, unconscious—all of
Chicago.

Anna Belle Whitford, who took part
of the Queen of the Fairies, fatally,
address unknown.
Winifred Litzzy, 17 years old, burned
on face and arms; Anna Tubbs, burned
on face and hands; Emma Tubbs,
mother of Anna, serious; Elizabeth
Trowbridge, burns on face and hands.
seriously; Fred Kingsley, her son, burned
on face and hands; E. N. Wilson, badly
burned; Godfrey Wilson, 12 years,
badly burned; Miss M. Lehman, not
serious; Carrie Anderson, head and
limbs burned; Mrs. C. S. Pugh, head
burned; Miss Helen Pilat—all of Chi-
cago.

Miss A. Fressan, residence unknown.
Two children, Felix and Jessie Guer-
riero, not seriously; Herman Diehl, face
burned and hands burned off; Mrs.
Emma Lang, Mrs. Wigwall—all of Chi-
cago.

Charles B. Taylor, a janitor, was
washing windows in the University
building, directly across the arca-
way where the theater fire escape was
located. He describes a terrible scene.
Immediately after the cry of fire was



WILD RUSH DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPES.

Mrs. — Mallam, Dunning, Ill.
Orville Radtke, seriously, and W. A.
Merriam, severely—both of Chicago.
F. A. Muir and wife—no address;
Mrs. M. Seelig, Mrs. P. T. Kimball
—both of Chicago.

Mrs. Mayrae, Elgin, Ill.
Miss Susie Dehn, Chicago.
Otto Waltman, address unknown.
Evelyn Herlis and wife, Peterberg,
Ind.

Mrs. Catrington and Mrs. Laaky, ad-
dress not known.
Mrs. Gallow, Mrs. Scraggen, M. L.
Melo; J. H. Everett, not expected to
live; Miss Nellie Reed, not expected to
survive; William McLaughlin, nephew
of Dr. Gussulius; Estelle Muir;
Cavanaugh, a boy, 17 years old, burned
and crushed—all of Chicago.

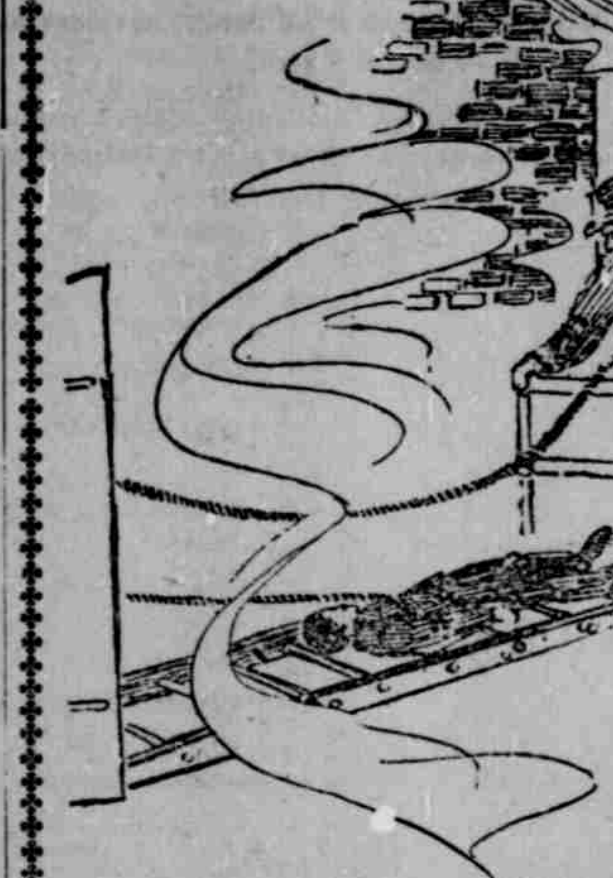
Herman Bell, Bessie Kringer, M.
Schlack, Richard Emelang, Lester
Doty, R. Kamper—all of Chicago.
Mrs. Koll and Mrs. C. H. Penn, ad-
dress unknown.

Children of A. F. Gartz: Herbert
and Agnes Lang, children—all of Chi-
cago.
Constable William D. Kruse, Frank-
lin Park.

Warren F. Morgan, burned, Chicago.
Miss Marcella Morgan, Detroit,
burned, may die.

EVERY NOOK WAS CROWDED
With Humanity in Holiday Dress When
Death Loosed His Rage.

Allured to its doom by the gorgeous
decoration that cost the owners of the
theater \$2,000,000 to erect, humanity
in holiday mood crowded every nook



DRAGGING BODIES ACROSS ALLEY FROM FIFTH STORY.

and corner from orchestra pit to gal-
lery before 2 p. m. At 3:30 p. m. the
kindling spark had set the awful fire
and at 4 the ashes of the dead were
scattered through the awful ruin.

At the hour when the matinee crowd
should have poured merrily from the
house scores who had escaped burning
in the fiery prison lay writhing where
they fell on the streets or had been
carried, bruised, broken and dying, to
the Northwestern University building
and stores in the vicinity of Randolph
and Dearborn streets.

The anguish of those who perished,
caught in the burst of flame that shot
from the stage to the balcony, in the
midst of the performance of "Mr. Blue
Beard," was lost to the 10,000 people
who witnessed the horrors in the
streets.

While the panic of those who fought
at the main entrance of the theater
was of itself a terrible thing, the women
and children who leaped from win-
dows and fire escapes, with their bodies
enveloped in flame, the men who ran
madly through the streets shrieking
in their agony, and the spectacle of
thrilling rescues by firemen and vol-
unteers caused another panic among
the crowds in the streets which threat-
ened to add to the horror of the trag-
edy.

Above the crackling of the flames
could be heard the agonized shrieks
of dying men, the despairing signal
of some unfortunate for succor. Then,
tearing, struggling at the blackened
mass to penetrate it and effect a res-
cue, they labored, cursing and crying.
Some of the still living victims were
rescued and taken out in time to be
saved. Others died before they could
be lifted from the heap of dead; oth-
ers, while they were being carried
down the staircases.

ESCAPE OF ACTOR EDDIE FOY
Tells How the Fire Started and the As-
bestos Curtain Failed.

"Eddie" Foy said after his escape:
"The fire began in the middle of the
second act. It was when the moon-
light scene was on. An electric wire
broke and was grounded, and from
this the flames were started in the
rear of the stage. The stage is un-
usually wide and there was so great
a draft the flames spread rapidly. They
soon had attacked all the scenery in
the rear of the stage. I never saw
flames spread so rapidly. When the
fire first began I went to the footlights,
and to prevent alarming the audience
I said there was a slight blaze and
that it would be better to go out quiet-
ly."

"Then I stepped back and ordered
the asbestos curtain down. This, when
half way down, refused to go farther
and thus an additional draft was cre-
ated. This swept the flames out into
the auditorium and I knew the theater
was doomed. I hurried back on the
stage and aided in getting the women
members of the company into the al-
ley. Some of them were in the dress-
ing room and were almost overcome
before they could get to the stage and
to the doors. When I saw all were
out I hurried to the hotel. There was
no chance to change my costume."

Chicago Tribune Editor Dead.
Indianapolis, Jan. 4. — John W.
Strong, commercial editor of the Chi-
cago Tribune, died on a Monon train
while en route from Chicago to Indi-
anapolis to visit his brother. It is
supposed that death was due to heart
trouble.

Public Debt Statement.
Washington, Jan. 4. — The monthly
statement of the public debt shows
that at the close of business Dec. 31,
1903, the debt, less cash in the treas-
ury, amounted to \$914,159,880, which
is a decrease for the month of \$11-
618,530.

Prosecution of Quail Sellers.
Terre Haute, Ind., Jan. 4. — Deputy
Game Warden Earle is prosecuting
grocers who sell quail, and heavy fines
with large costs are being imposed.
Earle also has information that quail
are quoted by the dozen by Turra
Haute parties to Chicago dealers.

Fire Destroys a \$50,000 Church.
Indianapolis, Jan. 4. — The First
Baptist church, one of the finest in the
city, has been burned to the ground.
The loss is \$50,000. It caught from
an overheated furnace.

WHO WAS TO BLAME?

Question Chicago Is Now Asking After Her Frightful Expe- rience with Fire.

INQUIRY TO BE VERY PITILESS

Officers Take Care to Keep Some Ar- tists from Leaving.

Considerable Tangle in the Death Rolls—Identification of Vic- tims Goes on Steadily— Funeral Days.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Pitiless investiga-
tion of the Iroquois fire horror divides
attention with the burial of the dead.
Archibald Bernard, chief electrician of
the Iroquois theater, was taken into
custody by the police. After being
closely questioned for two hours Ber-
nard was formally charged with "man-
slaughter." Next Chief of Police
O'Neill sent detectives to summon
Manager Will J. Davis, of the Iroquois
theater, to police headquarters.

Davis and Powers Appear.

Davis promptly appeared at the of-
fice of the chief, accompanied by his
business partner, Harry Powers. The
two managers talked for some time
with Chief O'Neill, who finally dis-
missed them, saying that he himself
would be responsible for their appear-
ance whenever they may be wanted.
"I want to question him," Chief O'Neill
said, when asked the reason for the
summons. "I am not arresting him.
If I thought that Managers Will J.
Davis or Harry L. Powers would
leave Chicago I would lock them up
immediately. But they will remain.
Both are citizens of Chicago, men of
good reputation and men with business
interests."

Watching the Double Octette.

"I am only summoning Mr. Davis
now to ask him about the fire in a
general way, and to get his opinion as to
what the members of the 'Moonlight
double octette' will not leave Chicago
before the inquest. Otherwise it may
be necessary to take the entire com-
pany into custody." Although mem-
bers of the "Blue Beard" company who
had been questioned by the police were
allowed to return to hotels detectives
were sent also. The detectives were
ordered to make headquarters at the
hotels and watch the members of the
company to see that none left.

Thirty Teachers Dead or Missing.

Superintendent of Schools Cooley an-
nounces that the Iroquois theater fire
killed twenty-four teachers in the Chi-
cago public schools, and six teachers
are still reported missing, making a
total of thirty.

CONFUSION IN DEATH LISTS

Live Persons Have Been Put Into Them by Wary Recorders.

The removal of bodies from the pub-
lic morgues to private undertaking es-
tablishments developed a fresh ele-
ment of uncertainty in computing to-
tals of dead and missing. The count
of actual corpses most generally
agreed upon was 582, including 450
identified and 132 unidentified. The
City Press association had the names
of 509 identified dead. A re-examina-
tion of the list showed that num-
bers were included incorrectly. In-
stead of being of the dead the names
of some were of those who had iden-
tified bodies.

Coroner Traeger issued an appeal
to the public to notify him of all fire
deaths that may have escaped the re-
cords. "It has come to my notice," said
Coroner Traeger, "that bodies of some
persons were removed from the tem-
porary hospitals and relief stations
directly after the fire."
In the hurry and confusion,
persons who could identify remains
were allowed to take them to their
homes without question. I understand
that this occurred in a few instances.
I have also learned that some of the
injured were taken to private resi-
dences and hospitals without the mak-
ing of any record, and it is reported to
me that some have since died. I ask
that any citizen knowing of any such
occurrence report the matter to my of-
fice at once."

The crowds of searchers for rela-
tives and friends continued at the
morgues. While the number of per-
sons showing for tidings or identifica-
tion pressed material diminution the
anxiety and weariness was intensified.
The constant presence of the black
wagons of undertakers were conspicu-
ous additions to the many scattered
neighborhoods where the morgues are
located. A mournful variation was the
occasional appearance of bands play-
ing dirges, as funerals slowly passed
towards churches, railway stations and
cemetaries.

SEARCHERS WHO CANNOT FIND

Lost Ones Who Will, Perhaps, Never Be Seen by Their Friends.

Many men appeared at the door of
Robison's and Jordan's morgues who
had been on their feet for forty-eight
hours constantly searching for those
they had lost. The greater number of
dead are in these two places, and men
who had viewed the ghastly rows of
corpses before and had gone on un-
availing searches to every other
morgue and undertaking room in the
city to which the dead from the the-
ater had been taken came back once
more to Robison's and Jordan's almost
in despair, but hoping against hope
that they might have overlooked their
dead in the great number that had
crowded the tables and floors.

In some cases they were successful.
In many others they were not. Prac-
tically all of the bodies which admit
of careful identification have been car-
ried away, and of those which remain
the majority are in such a condition
that only the most minute and careful
inspection will be able to reveal their
identity to those who knew them best.
One of the saddest and happiest cases
was that of Herbert and Agnes Lange.
of 1632 Barry avenue.

Both children had attended the per-
formance, and after many hours of
tireless searching the broken-hearted

father finally found the daughter in
an undertaking establishment. Lange,
almost exhausted through his con-
tinuous trips from morgue to morgue
and from hospital to hospital, from
police stations to the coroner's office
and then back through the wearisome
round again and again, came in utter
despair to the office of Chief of Police
O'Neill and begged two detectives to
assist him. He also pleaded with news-
paper men. Lange said these were his
only children and the detectives and
newspaper men promised him every
assistance. Finally the body of a
girl was found and the broken-hearted
father smiled through his tears as
he gathered up the little form and car-
ried it to his carriage.
"I have one of them at last," he
said, "and this will be a great comfort
to her mother." The absolute failure
of Lange to identify any one of the
bodies as that of his son aroused some
hope that the boy might still be alive
and cared for in some hospital.

But Lange's sorrow was turned to
joy when he reached home. As he
drove up to the door with the body
which he had brought from the morgue
as that of his daughter he was greeted
by his wife, who told him that their
two children had returned home in the
evening in safety. They had become
dazed apparently and had been wan-
dering around the city without know-
ing where they were. Lange at once
returned to the morgue with the body
of the little girl which he thought to be
that of his own child.

CAUSE OF THE CATASTROPHE

Man Who Saw What Did It Tells the Po- lice How It Occurred.

The police vigorously pushed their
inquiry into the causes of the fire and
made several other arrests of stage
hands, among them William McMullen,
the operator of the light which
started the fire, and Wilson Kerr, a fly-
man at the theater. McMullen's story
was as follows:

"I was standing on the iron bridge
at the right side of the stage from
which the 'spotlight' is operated. The
lamp seemed in good condition, but in
the middle of the second act, just as
I changed from a wire light to a blue
one, the arc between the carbons splut-
tered and jumped. A spark struck the
frayed edge on the inside of the border
of the curtain drapery. A flame which
I should say was about twelve inches
long shot up. I abandoned the lamp
and clapped my hand upon the flames,
but they spread in spite of me.

"I called to have the fire curtain
lowered, and yelled to the house fire-
man to help me. He came with a put-
out fire extinguisher which had no ef-
fect on the flames. Finally I jumped
from the bridge to the stage. A little
child in one of the front boxes had al-
ready been badly burned. I seized her
and carried her out and then returned
to the theater. Here I worked pulling
people out of the choked exits until it
was useless to stay any longer."

ADDITIONAL IDENTIFIED DEAD

List of the Unidentified Gradually Loses as They Are Recognized.

The list of unidentified dead is grad-
ually decreasing, as friends go to the
morgues and recognize the bodies. Fol-
lowing are the latest additions to the
identified list:

Armon, Margaret	Helm, Otto
Alison, Alfred	Ludwig, Miss E.
Alexander, Melba	Higginson, Roger
Baxter, Helen D.	Iris, Mrs. Andrew
Bezek, Joseph	Meade, Mrs. M.
Beyer, Infant	Moore, A. B.
Brown, William	McLaughlin, Wm.
Byrne, Constance	McLulland, Miss
Buddick, Kate H.	Morris, Mrs. A.
Bowman, Grace	Mann, Miss E. D.
Brennan, Margaret	Murphy, Dorett J.
Burnside, Esther	Moore, Benj.
Borgh, Arthur	McKee, J. W.
Bogers, Mrs. M.	Myers, Elsie
Cartlett, Mrs. Wm. Newman	Mrs. A. N.
Corbin, Vernon W.	Newby, Mrs. Anna
Coogan, Mrs. M.	Owen, Mrs. Wm.
Christian, Miss	Oakley, Lucille
Dunlevy, J.	Pailey, Dr. A. J.
Decker, Mame	Palmer, Mrs. Wm.
Docker, Myron	Pearse, Mrs. J. H.
Dixon, Edna	Roberts, Theo.
Eberstein, Mrs.	Rimes, —
Ernest, Rosene	Reed, Nellie
Ellard, Elma	Reidy, Mary
Ellan, Rose	Simpson, Ada
Esther, Rosa	Sheridan, Mrs. J.
Engel, Mrs. L. J.	Shelton, Andrew
Fort, Miss P.	Segrest, Mrs. A. N.
Forbush, Mrs.	Sayre, Mrs. Carrie
Fahy, Mary	Swartz, Irene
Goss, Mrs. Jos. J.	Seymour, Jose
Gudhart, Mrs. A.	Seider, Mrs. L. J.
Goodheart, Max	Taylor, Miss Flora
Gold, Mrs. Emma	Thoni, Miss Clara
Griffin, Amy	Taylor, Mrs. J. J.
Hickman, Lida	Wernish, Mrs. M.
Holmes, Mrs. John Wilcox	Williams, H.
Hippach, —	Wininger, Louise
	Wenton, Miss Alice
	Weslops, Mrs.
	Wilber, Mrs. Carrie
	Wilton, Mrs. Eva
	Zimmerman, Elz.

From Outside Chicago.

Berry, Otto, Battle Creek, Mich.
Lowtz, Mrs. Nathan, Keokuk, Ia.
Radcliffe, Annie, St. Marys, Ont.
Robbins, Ruth, Madison, Wis.
Pierce, Gretchen, Old Painesville, Mich.
Andrews, Harriet, West Superior, Wis.
At this writing only twenty-one un-
identified dead remain in the several
morgues. The total number of
bodies that has been accounted for is
582. Of these 561 have been identified.

SHUTS UP THE PLAY HOUSES

Nineteen of Them Found Violating Ord- inances as to Safety.

Mayor Carter H. Harrison has taken
steps to provide as far as possible
against a repetition of Wednesday's
horror. As a result of an investigation
made at his orders, and lasting but a
few hours, nineteen theaters and mu-
seums were ordered closed, some of
them being among the leading and
most popular play houses of the city.
The action of the mayor was based on
one single violation of the ordinance
which is intended to protect the pa-
trons of theaters from just such an oc-
currence as that which cost so many
lives on Wednesday.

This was that every one of those
places had omitted to supply an asbestos
curtain. The theaters ordered closed
(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)